**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. (original) A method of identifying an anti-malarial compound, which method comprises

(i) contacting a test compound with the 23S ribosomal RNA encoded on the plastid DNA of the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* (pf 23S $rRNA_{pl}$ ) or with a fragment of said RNA containing the GTPase domain; and

(ii) determining whether the compound binds to said RNA or said fragment, any such binding being indicative that the compound is an anti-malarial.

18. (original) A method according to claim 17 which comprises

(i) incubating the Pf 23S $rRNA_{pl}$ or the fragment thereof with the test compound and a reference compound known to bind to the rRNA or the fragment;

(iia) determining the amount of reference compound that is bound to the rRNA or the fragment; and

(iib) comparing the amount of reference compound bound to the rRNA or the fragment with the amount that is bound in the absence of the test compound;

wherein any reduction in the binding of the reference compound in the presence of the test compound compared to the binding in the absence of the test compound is indicative that the test compound is competing for binding to the rRNA and that the test compound could be an anti-malarial.

19. (original) The method according to claim 18 wherein the reference compound is thiostrepton.

20. (original) The method according to claim 17 wherein said RNA or said fragment contains an A residue at the position corresponding to position 1067 in the 23S rRNA of *Escherichia coli.*

21. (original) The method according to claim 20 wherein said fragment comprises the pf 23S $rRNA_{pl}$ sequence corresponding to the sequence from about position 1051 to about position 1108 of the 23S rRNA of *Escherichia coli.*

Claim 22 (canceled)